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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 325
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize the Lincoln County High School robotics team for their impressive accomplishments in regional and national competition.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence have distinguished themselves in competition and brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County High School's robotics team, affectionately known as the "Bird Brains", are estimable young Tennesseans; they recently earned honor and distinction in the regional and national rounds of FIRST – For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology; and

WHEREAS, The Bird Brains are the first Tennessee high school team ever to participate in FIRST; as our State's inaugural competitors, they have served as superb ambassadors for Tennessee, earning much acclaim for the dignity and poise with which they conducted themselves at the regional competition in Richmond and at the national competition in Orlando; and

WHEREAS, With the support of parents, teachers, and local engineers, the Bird Brains utilized their remarkable intellectual talents and tremendous work ethic to build *Falcon I*, a robot

capable of completing multiple tasks; in accordance with the rules of the competition, the students and their support team worked long hours to complete the project within just six weeks; and

WHEREAS, In Richmond, *Falcon I* proved to be one of the best designed and built machines at the multi-state competition; the Bird Brains were one of the most highly decorated teams in the region, placing tenth overall, receiving the “Rookie All-Star Award” as the event’s top new team, and also receiving a “Special Features Award” for the unsurpassed performance of their robot’s towing arm; and

WHEREAS, The Bird Brains outstanding performance in Richmond earned them a berth in the national tournament at Epcot Center; they were one of very few first-year teams to reach that elite round of competition; and

WHEREAS, At the 350-team national competition, they again earned the respect and admiration of the judges and their peers for the superior quality of their workmanship and the remarkable vision of their project; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County robotics team’s noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for their families, school, and community; the project united the community in a drive for excellence, garnering substantial financial contributions from local businesses and industries, the Lincoln County Board of Education, and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center; and

WHEREAS, The Bird Brains have distinguished themselves as pioneers in the field of robotics and as worthy role models among our State’s youth; the young men and women who comprise this noteworthy squad are: J. C. Anderson, Adam Berry, Dewaine Corley, Jesse Elrod, Ryan Fitch, Jon Hard, Kreig Jean, Corey Johnson, Sarah Jones, Nick Krishnan, Stuart Krishnan, Patrick Lane, Matt McDougal, Curt McDow, Zach Rozar, Tara Warren, and Jennifer Williams; and

WHEREAS, These students’ display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, Their dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor the Lincoln County High School robotics team, the Bird Brains, on their impressive achievements in regional and national competition in FIRST and extend to them our appreciation for serving as laudable examples of the quality of this State's populace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to them our best wishes for much success in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.